21. (New) The storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the icon is designated by a cursor at said designating step and the at least a part of settings information is displayed at said settings information display step when the cursor is placed on the designated icon for the predetermined period of time.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 10, 2002. Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 21 are in the application, with Claims 2, 7 and 12 having been cancelled, Claims 16 to 21 having been added, and Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 15 having been amended. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to for informalities. The specification has been amended as shown above giving due consideration to the points noted in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9 and 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,261,044 (Dev), and Claims 5, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dev in view of a screen dump for Microsoft NT 4.0 Explorer (Microsoft). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant disputes whether the Microsoft screen dump is prior art to the subject application. There is nothing in the screen dump which indicates that the screen dump was performed and printed out (i.e., published) prior to Applicant's filing

date. The only date included in the screen dump is a copyright, but Applicant is not able to determine what the copyright applies to. Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide a declaration and supporting evidence to support the fact that the screen dump is actually prior art to the subject application.

The present invention concerns management of settings information for each of a plurality of functions. According to the invention of Claims 1, 6 and 11, when a user selects an icon corresponding to a function, at least a part of settings information, comprising an identifier of each function an one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function, is displayed in proximity of the selected icon. For example, as shown in Figure 9, when a user selects icon 901 (corresponding to function 2 of Figure 6) with a curser, settings information 903 is displayed next to the icon 901. The displayed settings information includes an identifier 605 of the function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing the function (609, 611). As a result, a user can determine which of a plurality of peripheral devices has the selected function mounted thereon merely by selecting the icon of the function.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings for each of a plurality of functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each function managed by the management means, and settings information display means for displaying at least a part of the settings information in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user

from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Newly-added independent Claims 16, 18 and 20 include features along the lines of Claims 1, 6 and 11 with one difference being that the settings information is displayed when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time. Thus, Claim 16 is a network terminal apparatus comprising management means for managing settings information for each of a plurality of functions, wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function, icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each function managed by the management means, designating means for allowing a user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, and settings information display means for, when an icon is designated for a predetermined period of time, displaying at least a part of settings information in regard to a function corresponding to the designated icon.

Claims 18 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying at least a part of the settings information in regard to a function corresponding to an icon selected by a user in proximity of the selected icon (Claims 1, 6 and 11), or after the icon is designated for a

predetermined period of time (Claims 16, 18 and 20), wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function.

Dev is merely seen to disclose a network management system including a user interface and a device communication manager. In the network management system, hierarchical views (Fig. 7) and topological views (Fig. 8) of the network configuration are included as user displays. In the topological views, each network is represented by a multifunction icon (e.g., an engineering network icon 332 shown in Fig. 8A). When the engineering network icon 332 is clicked, a view of the details of the engineering network is obtained, as shown in Fig. 8B. In the view of details of the engineering network, network devices are represented by multifunction icons 340, 342 and 344. However, Dev merely displays the multifunction icons of the network devices included in the network as detail information. In Figure 8B, for example, an icon 340 is displayed, but the icon 340 is not displayed with settings information which indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function. Thus, Claims 1, 6 and 11 are not believed to be anticipated by Dev.

Regarding the Microsoft screen dump, as can best be understood by Applicant, when a user places a curser over a print icon, the word PRINT, together a type of printer (HP Laser Jet 1100) are displayed. However, it is not known what the displayed type of printer refers to. In other words, does the displayed printer refer to the default printer that the print job will be sent to, or to something else. Assuming that the displayed printer does refer to the default printer, the provided display merely depicts one device in which a print will be sent to upon selecting the print icon, but does not display a plurality

of peripheral devices for implementing the function. Thus, any permissible combination of Dev and the screen dump still would not have rendered the invention obvious.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO

THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 6 to 19 as follows:

--A communication controller 204 controls data communication performed via communication port 205. The communication port 205 has been connected to the communication port of another device on the network 207 by a communication line 206. According to this embodiment, it is assumed that exchange of date among peripheral devices such as printers or scanners shared on the network is carried out via the communication controller 204. Further, though a network such as a LAN has been mentioned as the communication line 206, it goes without saying that the present invention is applicable even if the communication port 205 and communication line 206 connected to the communication controller 204 are constituted by an ordinary public telephone line.--

Please amend the paragraphs from page 23, line 25 to page 25, line 2 as follows:

--If the user places a mouse or other pointing-device cursor on a function-implementing tool icon for a fixed period of time at step S707, control proceeds to step S708, at which a tool-tip that includes settings information of this function is displayed in the proximity of the tool icon designated.

Fig. 9 is a diagram showing a tool-tip display according to this embodiment. Here it is assumed that the content displayed by this tool-tip displays some or all of the management information of each function shown in Fig. 6. In the example depicted in Fig. 9, a tool-tip 903 is displayed in the proximity of tool icon 901 (e.g., function 2 in Fig. 6) if a pointing-device cursor 902 is placed on the tool icon 901 for a fixed period of time.

An example of the content displayed in tool-tip 903 is "NETWORK NAME OF IMAGE INPUT DEVICE" (609), "INFORMATION CONCERNING CONNECTION-DESTINATION SERVER OF PERIPHERAL DEVICE 1" (608), "NETWORK NAME OF OUTPUT DEVICE" (611), and "INFORMATION CONCERNING CONNECTION-DESTINATION SERVER OF PERIPHERAL DEVICE 2" (610).

Thus, in accordance with this embodiment, function-by-function settings information of various peripheral devices, which information has been set in a client apparatus in a network system composed of an image input server and a client on a network, is displayed in the form of tool-tips. As a result, settings information of various peripheral devices set on a per-function basis can readily be displayed without displaying various setting screens.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11 and 13 to 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) A network terminal apparatus comprising:

[search means for finding the connection status of each of various peripheral

devices connected to a network];

management means for managing settings information [of a peripheral device] for each of a plurality of functions [implemented by the peripheral device, based upon the connection status found by said search means] , wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function;

icon display means for displaying[, in icon form,] icons each corresponding to each function managed by said management means; and

settings information display means for displaying at least a part of the settings information [concerning a peripheral device] in regard to a function [selected by a user from among the functions displayed by said icon display means] corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed by said icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon.

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, [wherein said icon display means displays each function in the form of a menu] further comprising:

search means for acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network; and

device icon display means for displaying at least one icon corresponding to each of various peripheral devices, based on the information acquired by said search means.

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said settings information display means displays at least information relating to the type of peripheral device[,] or a network name of the peripheral device [and a connection destination server thereof] as the settings information [of the peripheral device].

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising designating means for allowing the user to designate, in order to select, a desired [function] icon from among the [functions] icons displayed by said icon display means;

wherein, when [an icon display of] a desired [function] icon is designated for a predetermined period of time by said designating means, said settings information display means displays, in proximity of the desired icon, tool-tips for displaying settings information [of the peripheral device] in regard to [this desired function in the proximity of the icon display] the function corresponding to the desired icon.

6. (Amended) A method of presenting a display on a network terminal apparatus, the method comprising:

[a search step of finding the connection status of each of various peripheral devices connected to a network;]

a management step of managing settings information [of a peripheral device] for each of a plurality of functions [implemented by the peripheral device, based upon the

connection status found at said search step] , wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each function;

an icon display step of displaying[, in icon form,] icons each corresponding to each function managed at said management step; and

a settings information display step of displaying at least part of settings information [concerning a peripheral device] in regard to a function [selected by a user from among the functions displayed at said icon display step] corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed at said icon display step, in proximity of the selected icon.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, [wherein said icon display step displays each function in the form of a menu] further comprising:

a search step of acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network; and

a device icon display step of displaying at least one icon corresponding to each of various peripheral devices, based on the information acquired at said search step.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said settings information display step displays at least information relating to the type of peripheral device[,] or a network name of the peripheral device [and a connection-destination server thereof] as the

settings information [of the peripheral device].

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a designating step of allowing the user to designate, in order to select, a desired function from among the [functions] icons displayed at said icon display step;

wherein, when [an icon display of] a desired [function] icon is designated for a predetermined period of time at said designating step, said settings information display step displays, in proximity of the desired icon, tool-tips for displaying settings information [of the peripheral device] in regard to [this desired function in the proximity of the icon display] the function corresponding to the desired icon.

11. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program codes of a method of presenting a display on a network terminal apparatus, said storage medium comprising the codes of:

[a search step of finding the connection status of each of various peripheral devices connected to a network;]

a management step of managing settings information [of a peripheral device] for each of a plurality of functions [implemented by the peripheral device, based upon the connection status found at said search step] , wherein the settings information indicates an identifier of each function and one or a plurality of peripheral devices for implementing each

function;

an icon display step of displaying[, in icon form,] icons each corresponding to each function managed at said management step; and

a settings information display step of displaying at least a part of settings information [concerning a peripheral device] in regard to a function [selected by a user from among the functions displayed at said icon display step] corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed at said icon display step, in proximity of the selected icon.

13. (Amended) The storage medium according to claim 11, [wherein the code of said icon display step displays each function in the form of a menu] further comprising the codes of:

a search step of acquiring information concerning each of various peripheral devices connected to a network; and

a device icon display step of displaying at least one icon corresponding to each of various peripheral devices, based on the information acquired at said search step.

14. (Amended) The storage medium according to claim 11, wherein the code of said settings information display step displays at least information relating to the type of peripheral device[,] or a network name of the peripheral device [and a connection-destination server thereof] as the settings information [of the peripheral device].

15. (Amended) The storage medium according to claim 11, further comprising code of a designating step of allowing the user to designate, in order to select, a desired [function] icon from among the [functions] icons displayed [in the form of icons] at said icon display step;

wherein, when [an icon display of] a desired [function] icon is designated for a predetermined period of time by the code of said designating step, the code of said settings information display step displays, in proximity of the desired icon, tool-tips for displaying settings information [of the peripheral device] in regard to [this desired function in the proximity of the icon display] the function corresponding to the desired icon.

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